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STATINTL

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Spy Swaps Invite Trouble

The arrest of the Yale University professor Frederick C. Barghoorn in Russia on spy charges gives added point to a warning recently issued by Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Dulles said in a public speech that he thought swapping imprisoned spies—one of theirs for one of ours—was dangerous, because it might encourage the Communists to arrest innocent travelers and hold them as trading stock.

There is no evidence yet that this is what has happened to Prof. Barghoorn. But United Press International has reported that there is speculation in Moscow that the Soviets hope to exchange him for Ivan Ivanov, a Soviet chauffeur awaiting trial following his arrest last month in Englewood, N.J., on espionage charges.

If this should turn out to be the Russian game, it ought to be resisted, and efforts should be made to free Prof. Barghoorn by other means.

It may seem hard-hearted to refuse to pay any price for an American held in a Soviet jail on what appear to be trumped-up charges. But trading for his freedom is a good deal like paying ransom to a kidnaper. A man with as much experience in international espionage as Dulles deserves to be listened to when he suggests that swapping may only lead to more trouble for more Americans.

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